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CENTRAL FAX CENTER****JUN 23 2006**REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1, 4 and 5 and canceled claim 2 without prejudice. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments to the claims are supported by the application as originally filed and does not contain any new matter. Therefore, the Office Action will be discussed in terms of the claims as amended.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7 under 35 USC 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In view of the amendments to the claims, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 4-7 comply with the requirements of 35 USC 101.

The Examiner has further rejected claims 1-7 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being definite. In view of the above amendments to the claims, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 4-7 comply with the requirements of 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7 under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over JP publication 2000-300555 in view of Weng et al., stating that it would have been obvious in view of the latter to filter data to remove noise subsequent to binarization since morphologic filtering was known to better prepare an organ outline highlighted by binarization for subsequent metrizing measurements.

In reply thereto, Applicant has carefully reviewed the art relied upon by the Examiner and respectfully submits that neither JP '555 nor Weng et al. discloses a means for setting a region of interest outside a target portion so as to surround the target portion or a means for three-dimensionally displaying inverted and binarized voxels present within the set region of interest as is now claimed by Applicant's claim 1 as amended. Still further, Applicant respectfully submits that neither JP '555 nor Weng et al. would suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art to add these elements.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination suggested by the Examiner is not Applicant's invention and claims 1 and 4-7 are not obvious over JP '555 in view of Weng et al.

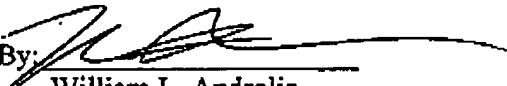
Applicant further respectfully and retroactively requests a one-month extension of time so as to respond to the Office Action. Please charge Deposit Account No. 11-1445 in the sum of \$120 the fee.

In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered, favorably considered and the case passed to issue.

Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this Amendment or required by any requests for extensions of time to KODA & ANDROLIA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 11-1445.

Respectfully submitted,

KODA & ANDROLIA

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on June 23, 2006.

William L. Androlia

Signature

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Date